

**Transportation Committee
Wednesday, January 27**

House Bill 5429: An Act Concerning Pedestrian Safety, Vision Zero Council, Speed Limits in Municipalities, Fines and Charges for Certain Violations, the Greenways Commemorative Account and Maintenance Work Zone and School Zone Safety Enforcement – Support

**Senate Bill 261: An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Oppose**

Representative Lemar, Senator Cassano, Representative Carney, Senator Somers, and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Stephen Anderson, and I am the President of CSEA SEIU Local 2001, a labor union which represents thousands of workers employed in the public and private sectors, as well as over 10,000 retirees currently living in the state of Connecticut. I submit this testimony on behalf of our members.

CSEA strongly supports House Bill 5429: An Act Concerning Pedestrian Safety, Vision Zero Council, Speed Limits in Municipalities, Fines and Charges for Certain Violations, the Greenways Commemorative Account and Maintenance Work Zone and School Zone Safety Enforcement because it is a straightforward, commonsense approach to motor vehicle safety that will protect lives.

CSEA is proud to represent Connecticut Department of Transportation professionals, school bus drivers and monitors, and public school paraeducators who will all directly benefit from the safety provisions of HB 5429. The reality is that our highways and school zones are not as safe as we would like them to be. And, as much as this bill protects people who work on our roadways and in school zones, HB 5429 will also help make things a little bit safer for all motorists and pedestrians.

CSEA also opposes Senate Bill 261: An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Department of Motor Vehicles; specifically, lines 757 through 760 ("The commissioner may collaborate or enter into agreements with such contractors and municipalities to implement technological solutions and other improvements to reduce customer wait times and enhance customer convenience.") Lines 757 to 760 give the commissioner far too much discretion and should be seen as a warning light of possible misuse and corruption. The lines remove the General Assembly, and really the public at large, from any sort of meaningful oversight role in the functioning of our state's DMV. The best way for the DMV "to reduce customer wait times and enhance customer convenience" is for its leadership to work directly with front line staff to develop protocols and policies that will improve the DMV experience for everyone. Connecticut, and particularly the DMV – just go ask them about how much it cost when they outsourced their IT upgrade, should not fall victim to the false hope of privatization schemes that more often than not fail to deliver either savings or efficiencies.

I thank you for hearing my testimony. I urge the members of the committee to support House Bill 5429 and oppose Senate Bill 261 as currently written.

Stephen Anderson
President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001